

Message Text

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13
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 232230Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5282
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SUVA 922

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EAID UR TN
SUBJ: SOVIET/TONGAN RELATIONS

1. KING TAUFA AHAU TUPOU IV OF TONGA MADE RADIO ADDRESS TO
PEOPLE OF TONGA AUGUST 17 "TO CLARIFY REASONS FOR TONGA
ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION".

2. KING SAID NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS WAS NOT NEW
FOR TONGA, CITING TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GERMAN EMPIRE
IN 1976 AND TREATY WITH BRITAIN IN 1900. NOR IS ACCEPTA
ZE
OF AID NEW FOR TONGA, SINCE TONGA HAS BENEFITED FROM AID FROM
UK, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDIA, AND IN NEAR FUTURE FRANCE.

3. KING SAID TONGA S DESIRE FOR ASSISTANCE IN UPGRADING
AIRPORT AND IN ESTABLISHING DOCKYARD WELL KNOWN TO AID DONORS,
BUT NO OFFERS HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING. THEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TURNED UP WITH PROPOSALS FOR BILATERAL AID: TONGA WOULD
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PROVIDE BASE FOR RUSSIAN FISHING BOATS AND FACILITIES FOR

CREW EXCHANGE, IN RETURN FOR SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN UPGRADING AIRFIELD AND PROVIDING DOCKYARD. HE NOTED BOTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAD REJECTED SOVIET REQUEST FOR FACILITIES, AND SO USSR HAD TURNED TO TONGA. HE REITERATED THIS IS NOT CHANGE IN POLICY FOR TONGA, BUT RATHER CONTINUATION OF POLICY SET HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

4. KING ADDED "TONGA KNOWS ALLEGATIONS REGARDING ATHEISM OF SOVIET UNION AND LABEL OF ITS BEING HEADQUARTERS OF WORLD COMMUNISM. TONGA ALSO AWARE OF HER OWN BELIEFS, DIFFERENT AS THEY ARE FROM THOSE OF SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER, DIFFERENCES (DO NOT PREVENT) TONGA FROM SEEKING MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE OF RUSSIANS. I KNOW ALSO TONGA S ACTION IN THIS RESPECT IS VIEWED WITH CONCERN BY COUNTRIES OF ANZUS TREATY ORGANIZATION, BUT WE STILL CONSIDER THEM AS FRIENDS IMPORTANT THING IS TO REALIZE THAT WE IN TONGA HAVE TO DO ALL WE CAN FOR OUR COUNTRY".

HALL

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Message Attributes

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